

July 24, 2003

The Honorable William M. Thomas  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thomas:

We commend you for introducing legislation The American Jobs Creation Act of 2003 to reform the international tax provisions of U.S. tax law and make other tax changes that promote U.S. jobs and competitiveness. Your legislation addresses fundamental inequities facing U.S. taxpayers that undermine the competitiveness of U.S. companies.

Enactment of your legislation will have a positive impact on the domestic economy as a whole and, in particular, rural areas of the nation. As you know, the European Union has threatened to retaliate by imposing over \$4 billion in sanctions on exports of U.S. products, including agricultural exports, if the Congress does not take action to bring U.S. tax law into full compliance with World Trade Organization rules in a timely manner. The placement of sanctions on U.S. agricultural exports would be devastating to agricultural producers and communities in rural areas of the nation. Enactment of your legislation will ensure that this matter is resolved equitably while enhancing the position of U.S. agricultural producers in global markets and strengthening our domestic economy.

Again, the undersigned agricultural organizations wish to commend you for your outstanding leadership in introducing The American Jobs Creation Act of 2003, and we pledge our support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

California Asparagus Commission  
California Citrus Mutual  
California Desert Grape Growers League  
California Olive Association  
California Tomato Commission  
Western Pistachio Association